As a result of the accident, 4 persons lost their lives, 6 persons suffered grievous injuries and 6 persons suffered simple injuries. Total cost of damage to the Railway in this accident is about Rs. 3.13 crore.

Compensation is paid only after a decree is awarded on a claim filed in this regard in the Railway Claims Tribunal. So far, no compensation claim has been filed in the tribunal. However, *ex-gratia* has been paid to the next of kin of the deceased and injured passengers as per rules.

The preliminary report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety does not indicate any act of terrorism. Necessary action will be taken against the defaulting staff after receipt of final inquiry report of the Commission of Railway Safety.

Modernization of railway stations

*27. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to modernize railway stations into world class standard;

(b) if so, the details of the plan and the stations earmarked for the modernization; and

(c) whether any target has been fixed for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) The details are being worked out and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of sugar

*28. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of sugar has considerably gone down during the year 2008-09 compared to previous years resulting in high rise in prices of sugar in the market; and

(b) if so, the reasons for decrease in the production and steps being taken to encourage cultivation of sugarcane and sugar production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The production of sugar during current sugar season 2008-09 (October-September) is estimated to be lower as compared to last three years' production. Lower production of sugar has put pressure on prices of sugar in the market.

(b) The production of sugar during the current sugar season 2008-09 has been low mainly due to decrease in area under sugarcane, reduction in cane yield, higher diversion of sugarcane for the manufacture of Jiggery (Gur) and Khandsari and fall in recovery rate. The Government has taken the following steps to encourage cultivation of sugarcane and increase sugar production in the country:-